



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Strategy Meeting for Preserving Geospatial Data

Historians, government officials and data stewards convened for a meeting at the Library of Congress earlier this month to discuss framing a National Preservation and Access Strategy for Geospatial Data.

The Library's National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program is drawing upon a different perspectives to develop the strategy. A key objective is to help stakeholders collaborate in managing geospatial data, which identifies, depicts or describes geographic locations, boundaries or characteristics of Earth's inhabitants or natural or human-constructed features.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/belvoirphotos/>

NDIIPP is undertaking this activity as part of its work to catalyze development of a national network of preservation partners. The meeting followed earlier sessions that studied [public policy on the web](#) and [digital news](#).

Read [more](#) about the meeting at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

Access Through Metadata

Perfect metadata is NOT required - good metadata IS useful.

So say the resident metadata experts at the Library of Congress, who made this point very clearly at the recent National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program [partners meeting](#). Consistent and rich metadata are needed in order to improve search of the Library's collections and provide web services that users have come to expect.

To address the challenges in this area, the "[Metadata for Digital Content](#)" group was formed at the Library in March 2009. This internal, cross-Library group is working towards new solutions, aligning with a goal in the Library's overall strategic plan to provide better access to digital materials. The group is co-chaired by Rebecca Guenther and Ann Della

Porta from the Technology Policy Directorate of the Library.

The MDC group members include catalogers, programmers and digital project managers, and represent different service units of the Library concerned with digital content. All are united by the common need for more effective descriptive metadata, which is of increasing importance for the burgeoning amounts of new digital material added to the Library's website every day. In studying the question of "what are users looking for, and can they find it?" the group determined that the overall quality of the online bibliographic records plays a big part in success or failure. So, how can the records be structured to help users discover relevant resources when they search?



Members of the MDC group. Credit: Barry Wheeler

[Read](#) about out how the group is addressing this question and others at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

dpBestflow.org Launched During FotoWeek DC

The [American Society of Media Photographers](#), a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program partner, launched [dpBestflow.org](#) during FotoWeek DC.

dpBestflow is shorthand for "Digital Photography Best Practices and Workflow" and offers definitive new guidelines for digital photography best practices to streamline and improve the process, production and preservation of digital photography.



dpbestflow Project Director and Author Richard Anderson. Credit: Phil Michel

Read [more](#) about dpBestflow at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).



NDIIPP Project Wins Best in Show

A National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program project won [Best Poster](#) at the [2009 European Conference on Digital Libraries](#).

The project, *Recollection*, is a set of tools to create new ways to access and share disbursed digital collections. Zepheira, LLC is working with NDIIPP to develop the tools.

Laura Campbell, associate librarian for strategic initiatives and chief information officer at the Library of Congress, and Eric Miller, president of Zepheira, demonstrated *Recollection* to ECDL attendees. *Recollection* aims to address the needs of the NDIIPP community for enhanced access and interoperability. "The network needs to be able to strategically bring collections under stewardship and keep an inventory without excessive burden on the collecting organizations," Campbell noted.



From the *Recollection* poster.

Read [more](#) about the meeting and the project at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

New States Initiative Partners

Two projects in the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program's [Preserving State Government Digital Information Initiative](#) added new partners.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History and the New Mexico Commission of Public Records State Records Center and Archives have joined agencies from Arizona, Florida, New York, South Carolina, and Wisconsin in the [Persistent Digital Archives and Library System](#) research project. The goal of PeDALS is to develop a shared curatorial framework for the preservation of digital public records such as agency publications and court records.



PeDALS logo.



Minnesota State Archives logo.

The [Model Technological and Social Architecture for the Preservation of State Government Digital Information Project](#) has added three state partners: the Arkansas State Library, the Nebraska State Historical Society and the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The project is working with legislatures in the partner states to explore enhanced access to legislative digital records.

In related news, a [new video](#) features Minnesota Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher talking about the Minnesota project's new methods to preserve and provide access to digital records of state legislatures.

Read more about the new [Minnesota project partners](#) and [PeDALS partners](#) at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

NDIIPP Keynote at Digital Preservation Workshop

Martha Anderson, director of program management for the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, delivered the keynote address for the October [Digital Preservation Management Workshop](#) in Ann Arbor, Mich., on [lessons learned](#) from the NDIIPP program.

Read [more](#) about Anderson's keynote at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

Upcoming Events

- [Federal Geographic Data Committee Virtual Forum on the National Place-based Policy](#): Dec. 9, 2009. [Registration\(free\)](#) is required.
- [Cultural Heritage Online Conference](#): Dec. 15-16, 2009, in Florence, Italy. [Registration](#) is open.
- ["All About Repositories" Webinar Series](#): Through Jan. 13, 2010. [Registration\(free\)](#) is required.

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